Child Marriage

6204. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that child marriage is becoming increasingly prevalent in Kerala among all communities; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any steps to put an end to this heinous practice which is also resulting in motherhood at an early age?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Emoluments for Imam

6205. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the Pioneer, dated 15th April, 1994 captioned emoluments for Imams;

(b) what is the revenue of different Waqf Boards in India;

(c) what is the State and | or Central Government subsidy to these Waqf Boards;

(d) what it will cost to give all the Imams salaries and allowances as suggested by the Supreme Court;

(e) to what extent the State and Central Governments propose to meet the shortfall; and

(f) whether Government is contemplating similar assistance to persons working in temples, Churches and Gurudwaras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement containing the available information showing the income and expenditure figures of some of the Waqf Boards in the Country for the year 1991-92 is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below)

(c) The Central Government does not provide any subsidy to State Waqf Boards. Information in regard to subsidy, if any, being paid by State Governments to State Waqf Boards is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) As the basic data such as the number of mosques, size of congregations gathering there, number of Imams, extent of emoluments that they may be receiving etc. are not available with the Central Government no indication can be given as to the cost of paying salaries and allowances to the Imams as directed by the Supreme Court.

(e) The Supreme Court has directed the Union of India and the Central Waqf Council to frame a scheme for payment of salaries and allowances to the Imams and not for payment of such salaries and allowances.

(f) No proposal for providing financial assistance to persons working in religious institutions including temples, churches and Gurudwaras is under consideration.